

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 17
By West

A RESOLUTION to commend Sam Ballenger on fifty-nine years of perfect Sunday School attendance.

WHEREAS, throughout the history of this state, there have been those Tennesseans whose lives have been inspiring examples of steadfastness and commitment; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body honor those people who, through devoted endeavors, have reached milestones that others have not attained; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding person is Nashville resident Sam Ballenger, who has adhered to his religious beliefs and committed himself to attending Sunday School at his and other churches without fail for the past fifty-nine years; and

WHEREAS, Sam Ballenger is an active member of Hermitage United Methodist Church where his endearment among the children of the congregation has earned him the beloved name "Mr. Sam"; and

WHEREAS, in his travels and during his vacation time, "Mr. Sam" held to his commitment, finding Sunday Schools to attend in other cities and parts of the country; and

WHEREAS, as his fellow parishioners have attested, even while sick, Sam Ballenger was so dutiful to his Sunday School that he once sat in class, warmly wrapped in a blanket, advising others not to sit nearby; and

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WHEREAS, during those fifty-nine years, his loving wife, Ruby Ballenger, also shared her husband's dedication and commitment to the church, missing Sunday School or services only when she was hospitalized or giving birth to their three fine sons; and

WHEREAS, Sam Ballenger serves as a source of inspiration to the members of Hermitage United Methodist Church and members of religious congregations everywhere; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend Sam "Mr. Sam" Ballenger on his fifty-ninth year of perfect Sunday School attendance, and offer to him our heartfelt wish that he continue to add to his uninterrupted record, and that he grows steadfastly in his service to his church and to his faith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Sam Ballenger with this final clause omitted from such copy.